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CENTER FOR AMERICAN INDIAN RESEARCH & STUDIES

Southeastern American Indian Festival



On December 4, we headed to the Mary C. Okeefe Cultural Center on the Gulf Coast for our first Southeastern American Indian Festival. The festival was sponsored by the Mississippi Arts Commission, Southern Miss College of Arts and Letters on the Gulf Coast and CAIRS. In the photo

above, Senora Lynch, from North Carolina, leads Dan Isaac (purple and gold shirt) and Venture Crew, a group of Choctaw social dancers, in the Haliwa-Saponi Robin dance. Gathered around the table watching are the Bogue Homa social dancers led by Perlle Thomas.

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From the Director: Our Treasures

Bad things happen. Good can come of it just the same. The Medicine Wheel Garden was vandalized last semester. Some students who were on a treasure hunt went looking for their treasure in our garden and made a huge mess of it in the process. Many of the rocks were tossed about and much of the cardboard that was around the plants and under the mulch forming a weed barrier and moisture retainer for the plants was pulled out and strewn in and around the garden. Fortunately, very few plants were harmed. My children, Kaliq and Kyla, discovered the disaster and reported it to me within just minutes of the vandalism. It was hard to stay calm, to think of what to do--call the campus police, talk to people in the area who may have seen this happen.

My little girl, who works in the garden each week placing the cardboard, pulling weeds, labelling plants and organizing rocks was not calm. She was angry and then sad and then finally exclaimed, "Mom, this will take forever to fix!" But even as she was saying this, people were arriving. The dean of students, Dr. Eddie Hollaway showed up. His assistant, Brooks Moore, was there. The president of the

Student Government Association, Kasey Mitchell, introduced herself along with several other members of that student governing body. First one and then another of these folks asked what could be done. There was much to be done! We worked that night on relocating the rocks, replacing the cardboard, uncovering plants and putting down more mulch. By 10 p.m. the garden looked much better.

The following day, the dean of students and the Student Government Association made donations for the garden that enabled us to purchase several hundred pounds of large, beautiful river rock to make spokes for the garden wheel. This was a much-needed addition. Student volunteers from the Student Government Association returned several times to help place the new rocks, lay more cardboard and mulch additional plants. The Southern Miss community made right this wrong and then did more. They made the garden even better. Leland Lewis from Choctaw came, and we had a blessing ceremony for the garden. Kasey and I spread tobacco. The students meant no real harm to our garden. They were looking for their treasure and didn't recognize that they were standing in ours.

We don't know what may be

someone else's treasure. Maybe these folks just saw a grassy area, or a grassy area with some rocks, or a grassy area with some rocks and plants. To many of us, though, this Medicine Wheel Garden is a treasure. It's our treasure. For some of us the Gulf of Mexico is a treasure, not the oil but the waterways that provide a livelihood, the land that provides shelter, the plants that provide healing. It's where Houma ancestors are buried. It's a treasure. And where some see just a pile of dirt, some pottery shards, interesting arrow heads or old bones, others see the very place where the first people of their kind emerged into the outer world, where they as a people were born. The Choctaws see Nanih Waiya, their mother mound. It is their treasure.

There are lots of lessons at college. Some are about math and English. Others are about how to be respectful of one another, of our differences, of our treasures. Still others are about how to make right what we've wronged, about how to go beyond just reparations and make improvements. Our students here at Southern Miss learn many important lessons.

~Tammy Greer



Who's Who in the Southeastern American Indian Tribes: Sonny Bell

Sonny Bell has worked at the C.H. Nash Museum at Chucalissa in Memphis, Tennessee, for 10 years. When I met him, he was behind the counter taking care of the needs and wants of curious museum store customers. When museum guests were invited into a demonstration room with musical instruments, Sonny moved from behind the counter and took his place at the powwow drum. He seemed comfortable there as well. I asked him where he learned powwow songs, and it turns out that Sonny is part of the drum group Shoti Ikbi, which means pottery maker in Choctaw, so named because Grady John, the resident potter at Chucalissa for some years, was the grandfather of the seven men who formed the group. Sonny has other talents as well. He worked with his dad, Cubert Bell Sr., learning how to make blowguns, spears and hatchets. Wood Bell, who was a tour guide at Chucalissa for 30 years, taught Sonny social dancing and social dance chanting. He's had some great

teachers, and, as is the Native way, he's incorporated those teachings into his own life, into what he does beyond Chucalissa, and teaches others what he has learned. Sonny is part of the West Tennessee Choctaw Indian Social Dance Group.

Sonny's wife, Maegan John, is part of the effort to maintain the Choctaw traditions as well. Maegan learned pottery making from her father, Grady, and beadwork from her mother, Betty John. She makes Choctaw doll necklaces with seed beads, as well as beaded collars, to sell at the museum. Sonny and Maegan are passing their heritage on to their seven children--Gabrielle John (age 14), Cubert Bell III (12), Charity Bell (10), Savannah Bell (8), Joseph Bell (5), Angel Bell (3) and Noah Bell (1) at their residence on the Chucalissa site. I can't wait to see who among them is going to be the artist, the singer, the dancer, the storyteller, the potter, the beadworker, the craftsperson. I can't wait to see.



Sonny Bell demonstrates powwow drumming to visitors at the Chucalissa Museum as part of an exhibit of musical instruments from several continents.

In the background of this article and below are pots created by Laura Soloman, who learned traditional pot-making from the late Grady John.





Our Mother the Earth: Green Corn Ceremony

For some of us the new year brings much celebration, much joy and much-needed resolutions. For many, the new year is a time of renewal. We may vow to eat more healthy foods or exercise more. We may promise our loved ones that we will be more available, more involved, a better mate, a better parent. We mark the new year; we notice; we celebrate. Historically, the Southeastern American Indians marked their new year during late summer or early fall, when the corn ripened and was ready for harvest. The Green Corn Ceremony was celebrated with community gatherings, fasting and then feasting, ceremonies, and much of the same revelry as many celebrate the contemporary new year. So it may sound odd that some of our Native people are calling for a return of the Green Corn Ceremony in this modern world. It's not the need for more festivities that has spurred this movement to reintroduce our summer renewal ceremony. The Green Corn ceremony had something that is not prominent in most modern-day New Year's celebrations. It was during the Green Corn Ceremony that the hearth fires were extinguished, grievances were forgiven and community life, more than just symbolically, began anew. It is this focus on forgiveness, on letting go of grudges, on our ability as human beings to change, to

give one another a second chance that is missing in many contemporary New Year's celebrations but very much-needed in so many communities today. For many of our elders, for those who are our tradition keepers, the return of the Green Corn Ceremony seems long overdue.

Cook's Corner: Bunaha (Shuck Bread)

2 cups of cornmeal

1 tsp baking soda

1 ½ cup hot water

1 tsp salt

Boil (10 minutes) corn shucks

Mix dry ingredients, add water until mixture is stiff and can be handled easily. Form balls with mixture about the size of a tennis ball and wrap in corn shucks that have been boiled in water for 10 minutes. Tie in middle with corn shuck string. Drop balls into a deep pot of boiling water. Cover and cook 1 hour. Store leftovers in refrigerator. To reheat, moisten shuck and microwave.

Add ½ cup cooked beans to recipe for a variation.

What's Going on in the Southeast

Mississippi: February 22. 11th Annual ECHO Performing Arts Festival. 6:30 p.m. Bennett Auditorium, Southern Miss Campus, Hattiesburg, Miss.

Mississippi: February 22. 11th Annual ECHO Performing Arts Festival. 7:00 p.m. Arena at Golden Moon, Choctaw, Miss.

Florida: February 18-20. Thunder on The Beach Powwow. Indian River County Fairgrounds, Vero Beach, Fla. 772.567.1579 deedee1579@aol.com or <http://www.thunderonthebeachpowwow.net>

Florida: February 25-27. 7th Annual DeLand YMCA/NAPS of Florida Powwow. 761 E. International Speedway Blvd., DeLand, Fla. 954.464.1860 michelle.bradt@yahoo.com

Florida: March 4-6. Thundering Spirit Family Powwow. Renningers Market Hwy 441, Mount Dora, Fla. 352.636.4271 or 352.589.0045 thunderspiritfam@yahoo.com or www.thunderingspiritfamily.com (Tony Ledford)

Texas: March 5. UTA 16th Annual Benefit Powwow. Bluebonnet Ballroom University Center, Arlington, Texas. 817.832.6236 dfoldoe@sbcglobal.net http://www.uta.edu/studentorgs/nasa_aises/ (Debra Foldoe)

Texas: March 5. 2nd Annual Gainesville Student Benefit. 2201 South I-35, Gainesville, Texas. 972.984.0854 tashby@gainesvilleisd.org (Terry Ashby)

South Carolina: March 11-13. Low Country Powwow & Cultural Festival. Mill Stone Landing, Hardeeville, S.C. 843.384.5551 mb3710@yahoo.com (Mike Benton)

Georgia: March 26-27. Yahoola Spring Powwow. 891 South Chestatee Street Dahlonga, Ga. 706.864.5081 yahoolacherokee2@aol.com <http://yahoolacherokeemuseum.com/rendevous.htm> (Johnny Chattin)

Mississippi: April 2. Basketmaking at Rose's. Bryan's Country Store. 2707 Highway 488, Freeney, Miss. 601.479.7666.


Texas: April 2-3. Big Spring Powwow. 1001 Birdwell Lane, Big Spring, Texas. 432.263.3255 rddowning@yahoo.com powwowbigspring.net (Robert Downing)

Tennessee: April 2-3. Powwow on the River - Honoring Our Veterans. 1st Tennessee Pavilion (aka Chatta Market), 1826 Reggie White, Chattanooga, Tenn. 423.240.7270 NASofTN@aol.com

Georgia: April 7-9. Cherokee of Georgia Spring Powwow. 110 Cherokee Way, St. George, Ga. 904.446.7223 fmmcgahee@bellsouth.net (Redhawk McGahee)

Florida: April 8-10. Red Eagle Lodge 11th Annual Intertribal Powwow. U.S. Highway 41 South, Floral City, Fla. 352.400.5644 (Pansey Grey Eagle) www.redeaglelodge.org or pansey57@sprint.blackberry.net

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11th Annual ECHO Performing Arts Festival
Celebrate — Song, Dance & Story!

ECHO's Performing Arts Festival, now in its eleventh season, brings together cultural performers from Massachusetts, Hawaii, Mississippi and Alaska to create a collaborative performance art piece, based on a shared theme.



This year's theme, **Celebrate — Song, Dance & Story!**, highlights how stories, music and dance convey cultural traditions and knowledge from one generation to another and across geographical borders. From mid January to mid March 2011, the tour visits Alaska, Hawaii and the continental United States.

Audiences will learn about the customs and traditions of our country's Native and immigrant cultures and have an opportunity to compare and contrast them with each other and with their own traditions, developing an appreciation for all.

Watch www.echopac.org for a calendar of appearances, pre-visit and post-visit curriculum materials, performance video and guidelines for a national poetry contest on the theme of **Celebrate — Song, Dance & Story!**

For more information visit www.echopac.org/visit

Event Dates:
February 22, 2011, 6:30 p.m.
Bennett Auditorium
University of Southern Mississippi
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
February 23, 2011, 7 p.m.
The Arena at Golden Moon
Choctaw, Mississippi

15th Annual Southern Miss POWWOW
April 15 & 16, 2011
Chain Park, Hattiesburg, Miss

FRIDAY, APRIL 15
SCHOOL DAY-ARTS AND CRAFTS DEMONSTRATIONS
GOURD DANCING 4 P.M. & GRAND ENTRY 7 P.M.


SATURDAY, APRIL 16
GOURD DANCING 11 A.M. AND 5 P.M. & GRAND ENTRY 1 P.M. AND 7 P.M.

HONORING OUR MILITARY

Head Men Randy Solomon
Head Lady Sonya Smith
Head Gourd Dancer Tony Conrad
Lancee Harold Conby
Arena Director Ken Dixon
Northern Drum Medicine Tail
Southern Drum Otter Trail

Twin Funks at the end of East 8th St. Hattiesburg, Miss
Admission is Free

ALL ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS ARE WELCOME
ALL NATIONS, DANCERS, DRUMS AND PRINCIPLES ARE WELCOME
For more information contact T. Amy Green (amygreen@sonniss.edu, 601.466.0942)



Tunica-Biloxi Pow Wow
Marksville, LA
May 15 - 17, 2009

SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMERS - Blues Nation
Inka and Waynaw Inka

Held on the Chief Joseph "Alcid" Pierette Pow Wow Grounds

Head Staff
Head Woman Dancer . . . Michelle Reed - Canton, MI
Head Man Dancer . . . Quanah White Thunder - Canton, TX
Head Gourd Dancer . . . David Flanders - Mound, LA
Emcee . . . Alex Shepherd - Galt City, UT
Northern Host Drum . . . Red Spirit Singers - Roswell, UT
Southern Host Drum . . . Otter Trail Singers - Lenoir, OK
Arena Director . . . Randy Frazier - Oklaoma City, OK
Head Dance Judge . . . Gabe Bullock - Longton, TX
Head Drum Judge . . . Bert Polchies - Panama, ME

Dance Competition with up to \$28,000 in Prizes
Drum (Singing) Competition
3 Places in Northern & Southern Categories
1st - \$3,000 2nd - \$2,000 3rd - \$1,000
Competition points start at 1PM Saturday, May 16

For lodging or general information
Call 1-800-946-1946
or visit www.tunicapowwow.org
Visitors must apply in advance. Ask for Sharon at extension 2523.

SPECIAL Traditional Style Dance Contest
Best Man & Woman
\$1,000
Friday, May 15
at 8:30PM

Sponsored by The Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, Patagon Canyon Resort and Delta Air Lines
No charge to attend unless you are a Non-Resident

Southeastern American Indian Festival (Continued)



**Ruth Hogan -
Poarch Creek
finger-
weaving**



**Ann Luster -Houma
Palmetto Half-
Hitch basket**



**Eleanor Chickaway-
Choctaw Swamp
Cane basket**



**Senora Lynch-
Haliwa-Saponi
pottery**



**Margaret Baggott -
Poarch Creek
patchwork**

What's Going on in the Southeast (Continued)

Florida: April 8-10. Chamber's Farm Spring Family Powwow, Chamber's Farm off CR 315, Ft. McCoy, Fla. Chambersfarm@hotmail.com
www.chambersfarm.org 706.983.9367 513.464.1746 (Dan Berke)

Arkansas: April 9. Natchez Nation Heritage Days Powwow. St. Mary's Catholic Church, Ft. Smith, Ark. 918.489.5055 479.221.7810 Natcheznation.com
tribal-office@natchez-nation.com

Mississippi: April 15-16. Southern Miss Golden Eagles Intertribal Powwow. Chain Park, Hattiesburg, Miss. 601-466-0948
tammy.greer@usm.edu

Tennessee: April 15-17. Kawani Intertribal Powwow. 9891 Ladd's Cove Road off I-24 exit 143, South Pittsburg, Tenn. 931-529-1557
moonwillow2012@yahoo.com
dreamcatcher40f@yahoo.com (Jimmy Wiseowl)

Louisiana: April 15-17. 44rd Annual LIHA (LA Indian Heritage Association) Powwow. Lamar-Dixon Expo Center, Gonzales, La. 504.367.1375 or
www.liha-news.com or djpm2@cox.net

Alabama: April 29-May 1. 11th Annual Cherokee River Homecoming Fest. 1075 County Road 67, Moulton, Ala. 205.221.3873 kbagwell1@gmail.com
http://cric2010.weebly.com (Cecil Brill)

Louisiana: May 20-22. Tunica Biloxi Powwow. Chief Joseph Alcide Pierite Powwow Grounds, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe Reservation, Marksville, La.

Tennessee: May 21-22. Powwow on the Mountain: Honoring All Survivors. The Cumberland County Complex at the ball field next to fairground, Crossville, Tenn. 931.787.0744 (Mary)

Arkansas: June 10-12. Manataka Powwow. Hot Springs National Park-Bald Mountain Park and Campgrounds. 300 Bald Mountain Road. 217.528.9172 http://www.manataka.org/powwow
manataka@sbcglobal.net (Daniel Sevenhawks Hoffman)

North Carolina: June 24-26. Cherokee Powwow, Cherokee, N.C. 800.438.1601

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Let's Get Educated: Muskogean Word Scramble

Muskogean languages are a family of languages spoken by American Indian tribes primarily in the Southeastern U.S. Koasati (Coushatta), Creek (Muskogee), Mikasuki (Miccosukee), Chickasaw, Choctaw and Houma are derivatives of the Muskogean parent language. Unscramble letters on left to make Muskogean words that correspond to English words on right.

1. LHMAOOAK	— — — — — — — —	RED PEOPLE
2. HOAOMCA	— — — — — — —	RED PANTHER
3. HTTAE CNOA	— — — — — — — —	GRAY SKUNK
4. BAMWATIA	— — — — — — —	WOOD BENCH
5. SBAHONE	— — — — — — —	GREY WOLF
6. UBEXONE	— — — — — — —	STINKY
7. NOAPLA	— — — — — — —	COTTON
8. TAKAMOO	— — — — — — —	RADIANT WATER
9. SUKUPS	— — — — — — —	BABY
10. SABALUAYH	— — — — — — — —	TADPOLE
11. SQKLAAUUh	— — — — — — — —	CRAWFISH HOLE
12. LAHTEHCITALA	— — — — — — — — — —	PALMETTO RIVER
13. UALHCT	— — — — — — —	FOX
14. SHIMGONOIT	— — — — — — — — —	WAR CHIEF
15. POLEUT	— — — — — — —	BLACK GUM
16. GOU EB TITCOH	— — — — — — — — — —	BIG CREEK
17. UBOEG OHAM	— — — — — — — — —	RED CREEK
18. GIMNOPOI	— — — — — — — —	PROPHETIC CHIEF
19. LAFCAHATAYA	— — — — — — — — — —	LONG RIVER
20. SHAOTUMAK	— — — — — — — —	RED WARRIOR
21. GIMOTBEBE	— — — — — — — —	COFFIN MAKER
22. TATICEHAHBUT	— — — — — — — — — —	CORNMEAL RIVER
23. HAMALOHUC	— — — — — — — —	RED FOX
24. HAWPTANAKAOY	— — — — — — — — — —	DIVIDED LAND
25. HINNA YIAWA	— — — — — — — — —	LEANING HILL

1. OKLAHOMA, 2. COAHOMA, 3. CONEHATTA, 4. ITAWAMBA, 5. NESHOB, 6. NOXUBEE, 7. PANOLA, 8. OKATOMA, 9. PUSKUS, 10. YALABUSHA, 11. SHUQUALAK, 12. TALLAHATCHIE, 13. TCHULA, 14. TISHOMINGO, 15. TUPELO, 16. BOGUE CHITTO, 17. BOGUE HOMA, 18. PIOMINGO, 19. ATCHAFALAYA, 20. TUSKAHOMA, 21. TOMBIGBEE, 22. BUTTAHATCHIE, 23. CHULAHOMA, 24. YOKNAPATAWPHA, 25. NANIH WAIYA

What's Going on in the Southeast (Continued)

North Carolina: July 8-10. Strong Sun Powwow. Tanglewood Park, Clemmons, N.C.

<http://nearriverdwellers.com/>

North Carolina: August 26-27. Festival of Native Peoples, Cherokee, N.C. 800.438.1601

Tennessee: October 1-2. Cumberland Plateau 10th Annual Powwow. Putnam County Fairgrounds, Cookeville, Tenn. iicpowwows@yahoo.com 931-544-4908 (Linda) 931-372-0495 (Carol)

North Carolina: October 4-8. 99th Annual Cherokee Indian Fair, Cherokee, N.C. 800.438.1601

Alabama: October 9-10. Oka Kapassa-Return to Cold Water. Tuscumbia, Ala. 800.344.0783

On the Red Road

Veteran's Day at Choctaw is a big event. This year, the Veteran's Day parade commenced with the dedication of a beautiful memorial wall for Choctaw veterans located at Veteran's Park. A two-day powwow followed the parade.



Veteran's Day parade participants

Okla i maya moma hoki.
We have remained.

In Loving Memory

Our dear friend Juanitsa Lewis recently passed away, and we will miss her dearly. Juanitsa was a great Southern Miss fan, regularly attending football games and supporting our powwows. Even with health concerns, Juanitsa was always ready to have fun teasing Leeland, joking with GEIS students, being an active participant in all that was going on, and sharing her unique ideas enthusiastically and unselfishly. Chi hullo li, Juanitsa.



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